IT OF THE PRESS.

Opinions of the Leading Journals on Current Topics Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

GRANT AND THE GOLD RING.

From the N. Y. World. Mr. James Fisk, Jr., has published an extraordinary series of statements, which we transferred to our columns the other day. We assume them to be true because, first, they are not in conflict with any of the known facts of the transaction to which they refer: second, they are quite consistent with what we know of the characters of the persons of whom they treat; and, third, they are corro-

borated by the statement officially promulgated by President Grant, so far as that state-If they are true, and if Mr. Corbin was, as he has publicly denied being, the real organ-izer of the recent corner in gold and in the intimate confidence of the persons who admit themselves to have been concerned in that

movement, what follows? Mr. Corbin is not known in Wall street so well, nor has he any such financial reputation, as would lead astute operators to give full confidence to his financial ideas, or to defer their own practised judgments, in their own specialty, to his crude theories. Neither is he a capitalist, so far as we know, of such pith and moment that his money was needed by men who had control of any number of millions without him. What was it, then, that induced Messrs. Fisk and Gould and the rest to follow the lead of a man in whose judgment it does not appear that they had any particular reason for confiding, and of whose money it does not appear that they stood in need. Simply this:—Mr. Corbin is the brother-in-law of the President of the United States. As such he was supposed to poscess the confidence of that officer and to have knowledge of his intentions. The sole value of Mr. Corbin to the bulls lay in their belief, first, that he knew the Executive mind; next, that he was willing to sell that knowledge for a share in the profits of a commercial speculation; and, third, that the President was willing to have him.

This last is the shameful part of the story. The facts which have come out about Mr. Corbin's letter to President Grant, which Messrs, Fisk and Gould were so anxious to have that officer receive that they sent it to him by a special emissary, bring afresh upon Mr. Grant anew the dark suspicion, which the World at first expressed its utter disbelief in, of his complicity in the designs of the gold gamblers. It behooves him to explain what that letter was, and what his answer to it. But, in any case, what a scandal and shame i is that the contrivers of the corner should have, as it is undeniable that they did have, grounds for believing that he might be in-

duced to join their ring!
Since the beginning of President Grant's
administration he has been bestowing the patronage of his office with an utter disregard of any considerations of fitness, or of anything else except that the appointees were either his relations or his benefactors. It is not proved that he has ever refused anvthing to one who had given him anything, or who could establish the remotest relationship to him, except in one instance. That was the case wherein he was applied to by Mr. Fisk, Jr., for a little official

and private information in return, it would seem, for a free ride on a Sound steamer. Put upon anybody else, this would have been a gross insult. But, really, is Mr. Fisk to be considered culpable for not knowing exactly the point at which the Spartan virtue of Grant began? As a brownstone front is to a seat in the Cabinet, so-Mr. Fisk, Jr., might not unreasonably have worked out his problem in proportion—is a free ride on a steamboat to a little bit of information, to impart which not impoverished Grant and made Fisk, Jr., rich indeed. But the gratitude of Grant in this instance alone failed to overcome his sense of what is "fair. He did not suggest, so far as appears, that the price was too small, though it may fairly be supposed that he thought so. He only tried to convince Mr. Fisk, Jr., and succeeded in convincing him, that what he proposed was "not quite fair." He did not treat the proposition as an insult. It would have been absurd if he had. It is no more a dereliction of duty to give a man information which you have no right to impart in return for favors than it is, in return for favors, to put a man in a place which he is unfit to fill. General Grant could not resent such propositions, and he did not resent this one, because his whole official course has laid him open to such propositions. When a President accepts promiscuous pecuniary favors he must know, unless he is a fool, that the giver expects reciprocation. A New York newspaper forbids its reporters to accept free rides on the railways or to eat gratuitous viands at hotels, because it knows that a return may be expected from carriers and from publicans. General Grant takes such things although he must know that such returns may be expected. The difference is that a different sense of dignity and decency obtains in the conduct of New York newspapers and in the

conduct of General Grant. When Mr. Grant's gratitude thus unexpectedly and unprecedentedly failed, what was left but to assail his other weakness-his love of his kin? By engaging the co-operation of Mr. Corbin, the "ring" seem to have thought that they could work upon it. By promising profit to Mr. Corbin, they appealed to both the consanguineous and the pecuniary affections of Mr. Grant. It is due to Mr. Grant's character to say that in this instance both appeals failed. But it is due to the judgment of the managers of the combination to say that neither ever failed before.

Grant's fate has indeed been melancholy and monitory. He has been scarcely six months in office. Yet during that time he has managed to fill the public service with a horde of flagrant incompetents and to insti-Lute the vastest and most scandalous system of nepotism that was ever known except in a decayed dynasty. And he has returned more favors for what he must have known were meant for bribes than all our previous Presi. dents put together. He has made his name a byword by deserting his duty and roaming about the country taking his pleasures pub-licly and continually. He has let himself out as a cheap and profitable advertisement to every hotel keeper who chose to keep him. He has incurred the unfounded but reasonable suspicion of being in complicity with a set of men whose business is to gamble with the public credit which his business is to nphold. And he has now sunk to furnish the matter of a small sensation to a moribund tuppenny newspaper.

THE HORNET AS A PIRATE.

From the N. Y. Times. Our readers are well aware that, though much is said currently about "international law," there is no such distinct code. What there is consists of precedents in the courts of various countries, where the statements of

this body of law, the case of the Cuban privateer Hornet will become of deep interest. The facts of the case are not yet clear, but so far as they are known it would appear beyond question that the vessel was manned and provisioned in the ports of this country, where she was once arrested on suspicion and released; that she also touched at Halifax, where she was detained and again released; and that she received her armament subsequently from

a vessel off the coast. She finally, whether from want of coal or to present a test case, put in at Wilmington, flying openly the Caban flag, where the United States Commissioner has summarile arrested her, on affidavit, as violating the Neutrality acts of 1818, and on the ground that she was armed and equipped within the limits of the United States, with the intent to commit hostilities against a friendly power, and also upon the high seas as a pirate.

The case for the United States was opened on Tuesday, the 5th, and was adjourned till yesterday in order to enable the Government to present its witnesses. The counsel for the privateer, Hon, George Davis, is represented as 'boiling over with Cuban enthusiasm and sympathy," which is probably the explanation of his opening speech for the defendants be-ing somewhat wild and sensational.

When this "Cuban heat" has somewhat cooled down, we shall probably learn from the learned advocate better what the legal points of his case are to be. It need not be said that it is a bad-looking case for the pri-

It is true that the worst accusation, that of piracy, in the Commissioner's warrant, is one always somewhat difficult to prove.

According to the former idea of piracy, in international law, it was sufficient to consti tute piracy, jure gentium, that the offense, say of robbery or destruction of property should be committed on the high seas, and that the offenders should be "free from lawful authority," or, in the old French terms, should have "ni feu ni lieu," neither fireside nor home. It was also claimed that the act should be lucri causa, for the sake of gain, and animo furandi, or with malicious intent,

But the modern fact of plunder and destruction committed on the high seas by a rebel who does not yet fly a recognized flag has somewhat changed the old definitions of this crime. The question "How far a rebels is a pirate?" frequently came up during our civil war, both in our own courts and in English debates. Great Britain held then toward our rebels, before the recognition of belligerency, the same relation which we now hold towards the Cuban insurgents. In the debate in the House of Lords, on the 16th of May, 1861, on the President's Proclamation, Lord Chelmsford stated what was generally accepted by the English publicists, that "if the Southern Confederacy had not been recognized as a belligerent power by the British Government, if any Englishman were to fit out a privateer for the purpose of assisting the Southern States against the Northern States, he would be guilty of piracy." The neutral courts would have followed in this our own courts. Judge Nelson, in the case of the crew of the Savannah, a rebel privateer, held that their offense, if proved, was that of piracy, but doubted if it would be piracy jure ers was to depredate on the property of one nation only, and not on that of any or all

Chief Justice Marshall, in another casethe Klintock case-threw out a similar suggestion, that a person acting in good faith under a commission, supposed to be issued by a competent foreign authority, might not be guilty of piracy.

This, however, is not the received position by publicists, nor the one resting on common sense. It is plain that for the safety of mankind every one who takes a commission from a foreign power to wage private war must do it at his own peril, and must know that his commission is unlawful.

This has been well stated in the American Jurist. If the acts are such as constitute piracy, it is of no consequence what other Governments have recognized belligerency: our courts are bound to follow our own political department alone, and if this has not recognized belligerency, the commission of a rebel power cannot be admitted as defense. Nor can it be admitted as a plea that a vessel like the Hornet is fitted out with intent to depredate on one power alone. If she commits, while flying a pirate flag, violence or plunder on the high seas, on the ships of a power sailing "in the peace of all nations," the presumption is that she would do the same to the vessels of other powers, and she becomes thereby a hostis humani generis-an enemy of the human race-and liable to be tried as a pirate anywhere.

The Hornet, it is true, may escape from the charge of piracy, inasmuch as no overt act has been committed; or because no hostile intent can be proved. The evidence presented yesterday will probably determine

REASONS WHY MR. GREELEY SHOULD BE COMPTROLLER.

From the N. Y. Sun. There are very many reasons why the Hon. Horace Greeley should be elected Comp-

troller, and we will stote some of them:-I. He comes fully up to the Jeffersonian standard. He is "honest, capable, and faithful to the Constitution." II. All the Republicans will vote for him,

for he has done more to build up the Republican party than any other man in the Union. III. All the Democrats ought to vote for him, for he believes in the fundamental proposition of the Declaration of Independence. written by the founder of the Democratic party, that all men are created equal, and have an inalienable right to life, liberty, and

the pursuit of happiness. IV. All the Abolitionists will vote for him. for he has been the consistent opponent of slavery from the advent of Garrison down to

the assassination of Lincoln. V. All the secessionists should vote for him, for when South Carolina adopted the ordinance of session in December, 1860, he

said, Let the South go in peace! VI. All who are in favor of the fifteenth amendment will vote for him, for he has advocated manhood suffrage ever since he established the Tribune twenty-eight years

VII. All who are opposed to the amendment ought to vote for him, for he is the strenuous opponent of the disfranchisement of the Rebels, and gave an earnest of his sincerity by going bail for Jefferson Davis.

VIII. All who oppose woman's suffrage will vote for him, for he has set his face and his journal against this threatened innovation upon the established order of things. IX. The women of the Revolution should support him, because he breakfasted with them, and saw his own portrait adorning the

walls of their Bureau in Twenty-third street,

surrounded by a smiling and sparkling bevy of the strong-minded of the sex. X. All the Irish ought to vote for him, for

sense. In view of the gradual formation of Costello, Warren, and the brilliant George Francis Train, he has advocated the independence of Ireland.

XI. All the temperance men will vote for him, because he never drinks anything that can intoxicate, and is in favor of having a prohibitory law upon the statute book. XII. All the opponents of prohibition ought

to vote for him, for he has in substance informed the Germans that the prohibitory law is to remain a dead letter, and therefore he may be regarded as a fac-simile of the man down East, who was in favor of the Maine aw, but was opposed to its enforcement.

XIII. All the champions of Cuba should vote for him, for no man in the Union has dvocated the independence of the Gem of the Antilles with more zeal and ability than the editor of the Tribune.

XIV. All the supporters of Spanish supremacy on the American continent ought to vote for him, for he is the personal and political friend of the Secretary of State, who steadily opposes the recognition of Cuban belligerency, and causes the arrest and imprisonment of sons of Cuba on our shores who want to go home and strike a blow for the deliverance of their native isle.

XV. Finally, everybody ought to vote for bim because this is the first fair chance Mr. Greeley has ever had for testing his popularity before the people of this State. As the prospect is that the regular Demoeratic majority will be about 50,000, therefore the only mode for securing his success is for all the classes we have enumerated to give him their votes, and thus make his election unanimous.

Let it be done! Let us elect Horace Greeley!

BRIDGET AND CHANG.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The kitchen problem is becoming an imminent peril. Whether Mr. Jones be bull or bear, Bridget's tough beefsteaks lie alike like lead all day on his stomach and brain. It is riding him to death as surely as the relentless Old Man did Sinbad. He grows gaunt, lean, lyspeptic. Mrs. Jones, who for ten squabbling rears of married life has been cherishing a dream of gray-haired retainers and faithful servitude drawn from English novels, has wakened to the reality, cries shrilly against the insolent Irish and stolid Datch, and is ready to thrust them out and accept co-opera tive housekeeping, a cooking machine, or a Chinaman indifferently. Her inability to train and control one maid-servant gives her hopes of her success in the cases of men if hands were once free: she has no hold on Biddy because of the great gulf between them, though their blood ran in the same channels perhaps a few generations back so he introduces Chang, as a more accordant element, into the household, with his little pagan geds hidden in the pantry, and his ome and children in the Antipodes.

There is a fact which Mrs. Jones must face conner or later, before comfort can be restored to the distracted kitchen realm of America and that fact is that the fault lies primarily in the mistress, and not in the maid. The ideal servant of English households belonged to a family as uncultured. most probably, as Bridget's; she was trained for her work carefully by a housekeeper or gentium, inasmuch as the intent of the prison- upper servant. Mrs. Jones will not accept the work of a housekeeper? Voila! alternative is before her. Chang brings to his work a higher civilization than that of the black Aunt Bettys and Chloes, the best cooks we have ever had in the States; but a Virginia matron knew when her biscuit were light, and took off her diamonds to inspect

her pantries. But for the insolence of Bridget there is. we are told, no remedy. Now Bridget is human. She would have been capable of respect and servility to the Hon. Miss St. Leger at home, or to the 'lady at the great house. They had the advantages of long generations of good birth and culture. Mrs. Jones forgets that in this she is not like them. Bridget never does. Her American mistress is only raised above her, she fancies, by the accident of money. In a few years she or her children may have like good luck. Yet, we insist again, Biddy is human. So is Chang. And when women or men stand face to face on the bare ground of humanity, there is a power in knowledge, good breeding, and a and heart that insures control over every insubordinate element. "He who fears to meet the working classes," says Goethe, "and try his strength with them, stripped of all externals of circumstance and position, is a coward, because he is inferior to them." If Mrs Jones finds the Irishwoman too much for her. she may draw her own conclusions.

HYACINTHE. From the N. Y. Tribune. Pere Hyacinthe's flight to this country seems to indicate his resolve to break finally with his mother, as he calls her, "according to eternity." With the theological question at issue between them we have nothing to do, but we cannot but wonder at the short-sightedness of the said venerable old parent of so many turbulent sons, in parting with one so strong for her support. "A firm faith hath the keenest of edges, saith the shrewd Sir Thomas Browne, and that of this man is a weapon which the Roman Church can ill spare. Is it old age or alarm that has made ner suddenly abjure her ancient tactics? However harmless she may have been as a dove, nobody ever denied her before the wisdom of the serpent. Her power for ages lay in her faculty of absorption: she had a place for every man-a glazing cement that held every talent, creed, individuality, in one admirable mosaic. No Protestant sects differed more widely in doctrine than the followers of Loyola and Jansen, or waged more bitter, implacable warfare. The Spanish, German, American Catholics of to-day are held together by slight bonds of old forms and traditions, which the one worships in sheer Paganism, but which are to the other mere outward symbols of vital truths. The eighty damnable heresies of Pope Pius are to Pere Hyacinthe the spirit of "the nine-teenth century, to which he also has duties and tendernesses." It may be a wise thing in the Pope to bring all these conflicting ele-ments of his Church face to face in the Œcumenical Council, though we doubt whether the result will be edifying or pleasant. But why should he now lose one of the men whom previous papal policy would surely have retained?

THE FRENCH EMPRESS ON THE CUBAN QUESTION. From the N. Y. Tribune.

It is well known that the Empress Eugenia has very decided, if not always very intelli-gent, opinions on all the public issues of the day. The idea she entertains, or at least entertained some years ago, on one of the disturbing questions of the present hour, is indicated by an incident which we believe was never published before, though Senator Douglas told it to several of his friends in this

During the last visit to Europe of the late

the cases are based, or attempted to be based, | from the famous battle on the heights of | Stephen A. Donglas of Illinois (in 1869, if we on broad principles of justice and common | Slievenamon down to the imprisonment of | remember correctly) he was introduced, when remember correctly) he was introduced, when in Paris, to the French Court, after the usual forms. Presently the Empress Engenie fell into conversation with him, and the first remark she made, after the salutation, was:-"Senator Douglass, I understand that you are in favor of the sale of Cuba by Spain to the United States." The Senator attempted to avoid a direct answer by making a pleasant and complimentary remark, to the effect that as France had been fortunate enough to secure a Spanish lady for the throne in the person of Her Majesty (alluding to Eugenie's spanish birth), so the young American Resublic was anxious to win a prize from Spain by securing an alliance with the Queen of the Antilles. To this lively sally the Empress made no reply, but instantly remarked, in the most earnest and emphatic way:-"If I had the power, I would sacrifice every cent (sout) of the Spanish revenue, and every soldier in the Spanish army, before Cuba should be surrendered by Spain."

GREELEY'S ACCEPTANCE. From the N. Y. Herald.

The Republican New York State ticket, as at last made up, is headed by General Franz Sigel for Secretary of State, and next in order by Horace Greeley for Comptroller. With the self-sacrificing spirit of Curtius leaping into the gulf, Greeley accepts. He is not hopeful of the election, but he will do what he can for the cause. The State Committee brought him forward to strengthen the ticket: but his letter is rather calculated to depress than to encourage them. He does not move, like Grant, upon the enemy's works, but hesitates and pleads his necessity for more troops like McClellan. But for all this, if he will only pluck up a little courage, we think his name will be an advantage to the Republican ticket. Unquestionably the name of Sigel will strength en it among the Germans. Appareutly the late squabbling Fenton and Morgan cliques, and he Twenty-second street regulars and Twentythird street outsiders of this city, have become reconciled on the basis of an experimental armistice; but they do not yet pull together very harmoniously. In short, unless Penn-sylvania and Ohio are held unbroken by the Republicans, the party will hardly hold their own in New York, notwithstanding the generous advance to the front of Sigel

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